

## FOCUS ON Maps

The library is home to over 1,000 maps and almost 3,750 books and microfiche that contain maps.

Maps are located in several locations including:

- E2—gazetteers
- E3—maps, atlas and plat maps
- E6—description and travel & guide books
- Oversize books
- Small and large (locked) map cases
- Rolled maps

Indexes for the maps located in books are in the card catalog. While there are no printed indexes for maps in cases or that are rolled, there is an index the librarian can access.

### Types of Maps

When searching maps, consider which type you need. Below are some common map types with their genealogical uses:

#### Country/State Maps

Used to see where people travelled or distances between cities.

#### Street Maps

Used to see where the families lived or what school or church is near the family's home.

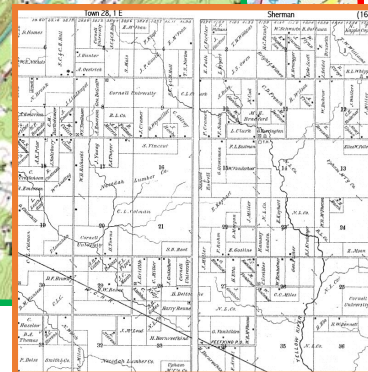
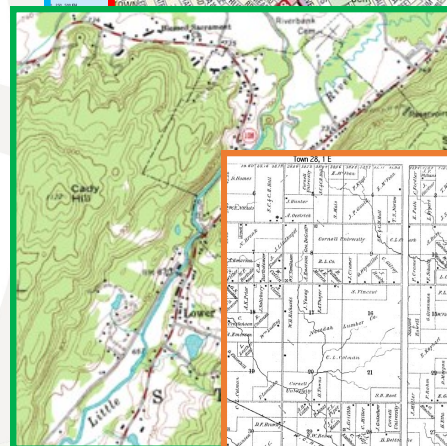
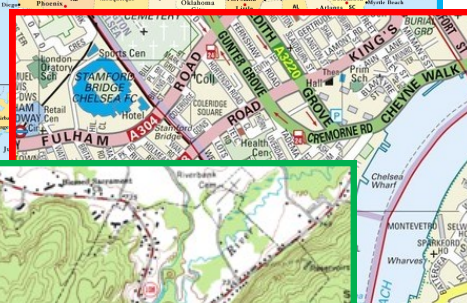
#### Topo Maps

Used to see what the family land was like, which way the family would have travelled to get to the courthouse, railroad, largest city, etc.

#### Plat Maps

Used to see how much land a family owned, who the land is near, how close a water source is, etc.

In addition to maps with genealogical purposes, historical maps (see next page) can supplement a region with information pertaining to the time period they depict.



# Websites for Maps

## NARA

<https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/maps>

NARA provides thousands of maps ranging in subject, geographic location, date, etc.

Following the **Record Group links** will take you to a description, where you can then **search within the series**.

From there, you can **refine** and **adjust** what results you get.

NARA also provides a rundown on how to analyze a map, which you can view and download at:

<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/worksheets/map.html>

## USGS

<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>

USGS is home to a range of historical maps, which can be viewed by location and date.

To begin, **input a location**, then **click on a marker** to view the historical map corresponding to the location you chose.

In addition to historical maps, USGS has other maps available (topo, geologic, etc) to view, or inquire about at:

<https://www.usgs.gov/products/maps/overview>

## Other helpful sites include:

### BLM GLO

<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/default.aspx>

The Bureau of Land Management provides General Land Office Records including land patents, survey plats, and tract books.

### Library of Congress:

<https://www.loc.gov/maps/>

Library of Congress offers access to a wide variety of maps from all over the world, including fire insurance maps, relief maps, and historical maps.

### Ancestry.com

Library Edition (available in the Library)

By going to the card catalog and using the filters in the left column to narrow the results down to maps & atlases, you can view the maps available on Ancestry.com.

### Cyndi's List:

<https://www.cyndislist.com/maps/>

Cyndi's List provides an indexed list of types of maps, some of which can be accessed online, while others must be viewed in person.

# Google MyMaps

Google MyMaps is an online application that allows you to create, view, and share maps from around the world.

Its main functions include:

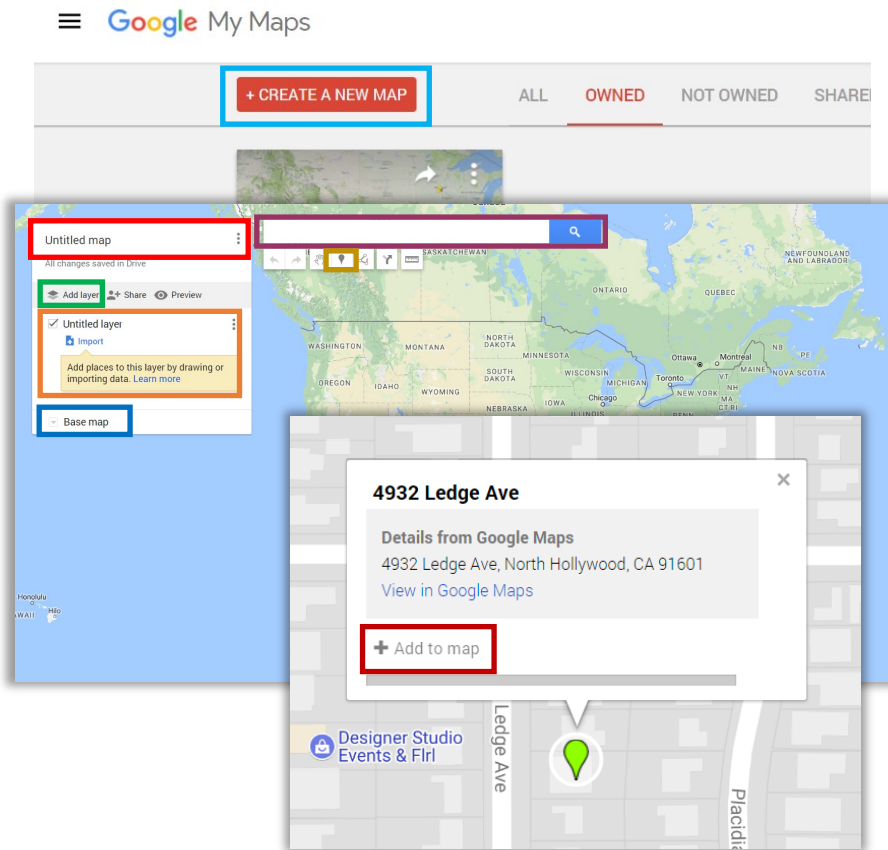
- Placing markers at specific locations
- Adding details/photographs
- Creating “layers” to separate/combine information

These functions can be useful for mapping the intersecting lives of individuals, which can flesh out how these people came to know/become family with each other.

Note: You may only create maps if you have a free Google account. To sign up or log in, go to: [google.com/mymaps](https://google.com/mymaps)

## Beginning a map:

1. Click **create a new map** on the homepage.
2. Here, you can **name** and **add a description** to your map, **add layers**, **adjust layers**, and change the **base map**.
3. To add points to a layer, you can **search** by location (or name of business), or go directly to the map and **place a marker**. If you search, you'll need to **add the location** to your map manually, whereas placing a marker will automatically add the location to your map.
  - a. You can get as specific (address) or as general (city, state, etc) as you want.

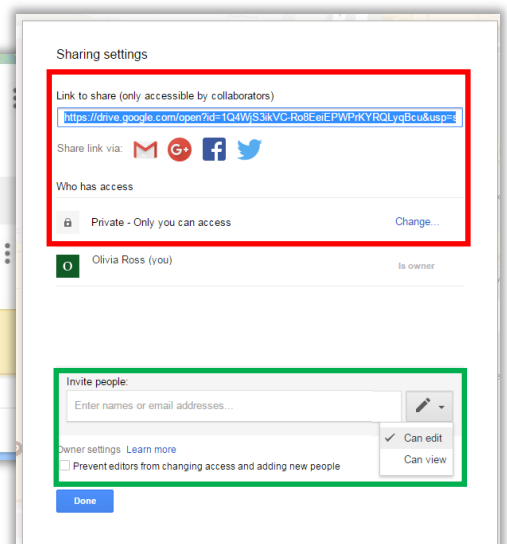
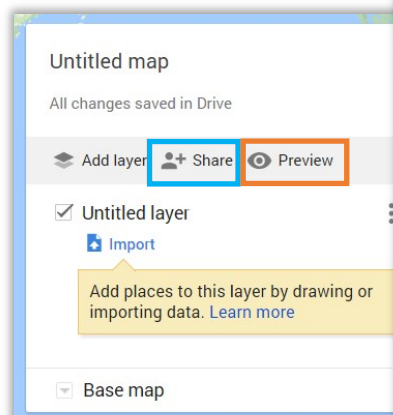


## Sharing a map:

Once you're ready to share your map, you will click the **Share** button. There are several ways to share your map:

- **Link**
  - ◇ 3 types of sharing by link
- **Email**
  - ◇ 2 types of sharing by email

Additionally, you can **preview** your map to see what it will look like to those who can view it.

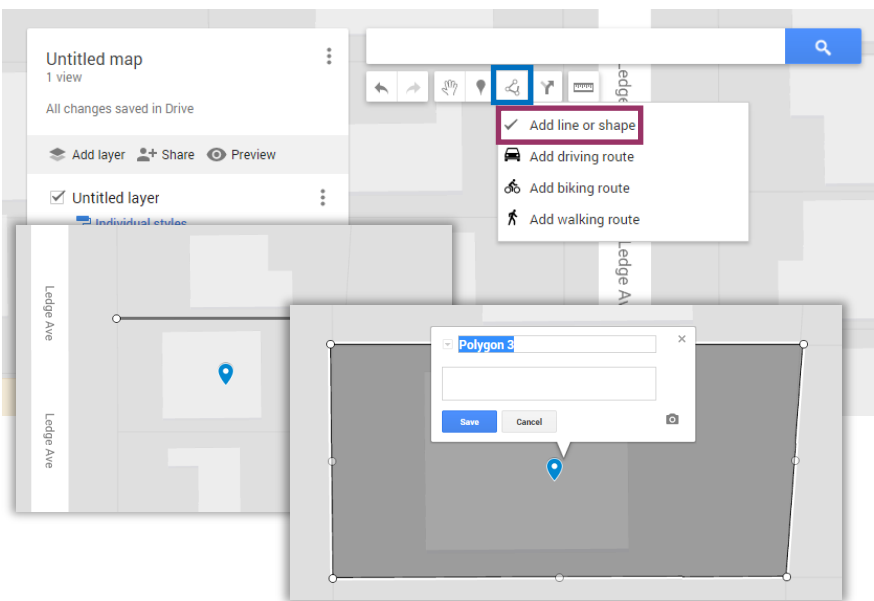
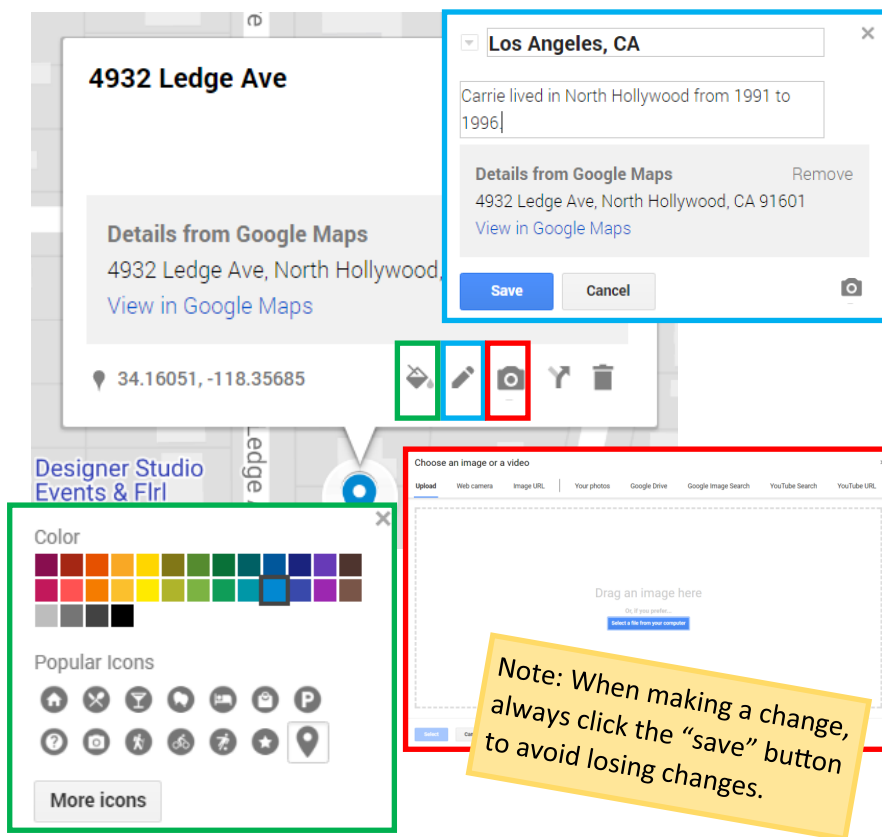


## Adding details to a map:

You can add details for each marker you place on your map.

Adding details allows you to supplement information with three main functions:

- **Edit**
  - ◇ Add a title and information to the marker
- **Images**
  - ◇ Add multiple images from a variety of sources including: your computer, your google drive, or google image search
- **Style**
  - ◇ Change the color and icon of the marker



## Plotting land:

A function of MyMaps is drawing lines and shapes, a useful tool for indicating land/property owned by your ancestors.

To begin the shape, click **draw a line**, and choose **add line or shape**.

From there, click from point to point to draw a shape around the perimeter of the property.

Once you close the shape, it'll turn into a polygon that you can treat like a marker (add details/images, change style, etc).

## Adjusting layers:

Once you have markers added to your map, you can change the layers.

By **adding layers**, you can separate markers into different categories/subjects, and **adjust the style** of each marker within each layer.

Additionally, you can **move markers** around within their own layer, or between different layers.

